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Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



Rollin Cook
Commissioner

To: All Staff

From: Dr. Byron Kennedy, Chief Medical Officer

Date: March 16, 2020

Subject: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In its most recent guidance regarding patients with known or suspected COVID-19 (please see link to first reference below), the CDC emphasizes the following

1. Standard facemasks provide acceptable protection for clinical staff performing routine care for patients with known or suspected COVID19
2. N95 masks should be used when performing aerosolgenerating procedures (e.g., sputum induction, open airway suctioning)
 - a. Ideally, these procedures should be done in a negative pressure environment
3. Eye protection and gloves should be used when caring for patients with known or suspected COVID19
4. Where gowns are limited, they should be prioritized for clinical staff performing aerosol-generating procedures, as noted above, and anticipated splashes and sprays

As many folks are aware, there are currently supply constraints for PPE nationwide. Accordingly, we ask for everyone's cooperation in ensuring the appropriate use of these important assets. In the meantime, DOC is working with our partners to secure PPE on an ongoing basis.

Finally, please see the link to the second CDC reference, which provides information about appropriately donning (putting on) and doffing (removing) PPE.

References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/PPE-Sequence.pdf>